

Iowa Department on Aging

Director Donna K. Harvey

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Iowa Department on Aging Announces National Employ Older Workers Week September 24- 28, 2012

Number of jobs filled by Iowans age 55 and older is 285,063

(Des Moines, IA.) Today, Iowa Department on Aging Director Donna Harvey encouraged Iowa employers to hire older workers as Iowa, along with the rest of the nation, continues to experience dramatic growth in the number of citizens age 55 and older. National **Employ Older Workers Week** recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce. This year, **National Employ Older Workers Week** is September 24-28, 2012.

"As Iowa's population ages, older Iowans will play an increasingly significant role in our economy. Today, 285,063 Iowa jobs are filled by Iowans age 55 and above, accounting for 19.9 percent of the total employed population in Iowa," Director Harvey stated.

Nationally, It is estimated that by 2014 41% of Americans age 55 or older will be employed, making up over 21% of the U.S. labor force.

National Employ Older Workers Week highlights two worthwhile older worker employment programs that the Iowa Department on Aging participates in:

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides on-the-job skills training to individuals 55 or older with limited financial resources. This program is located in every county in Iowa and got its start as part of the War on Poverty over 40 years ago. To participate in SCSEP, a person must be:

- Age 55 or older
- Legally eligible to work in the United States
- Living in a household with income no more than 125% of federal poverty level (family of one for 2012 - \$13,963.)

Another important older worker program for Iowans is the Senior Internship Program (SIP) which provides civic engagement opportunities for adults over 55 years of age who want to find employment.

"Older Iowans who need or want to continue working bring valuable skills to the workplace, including a strong work ethic, years of experience, dependable job skills and an eagerness to learn more and share their expertise with others," Director Harvey concluded.

To find out more about the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and the Senior Internship Program (SIP), contact Terry Hornbuckle, State Mature Worker Coordinator, at: terry.hornbuckle@iowa.gov or call Terry at 515/725-3323.

To find out about the Iowa Department on Aging, go to: www.iowaaging.gov .

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

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